

RESOLUTION NO. RS2018-1217

A resolution to honor Linda O'Neal on the occasion of her retirement from the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County takes great pleasure in paying tribute to a dedicated public servant who has devoted her entire career to protecting this State's most precious resource, our children; and,

WHEREAS, since 1988, Linda O'Neal has served with distinction as the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth ("TCCY"), working with purpose and conviction to improve the quality of life for Tennessee's children and families and providing leadership for other children's advocates; and,

WHEREAS, immediately prior to coming to TCCY, Linda was employed by the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services where she provided legislative and administrative advocacy on behalf of low-income people, and she chaired a statewide task force on children in foster care; and,

WHEREAS, Linda began her career working with children in foster care. She was involved in juvenile justice advocacy with the Tennessee Law Enforcement Planning Agency and served as executive director of the Institute for Children's Resources ("ICR"). At ICR, she led advocacy efforts to pass legislation to remove children from adult jails, worked with the Tennessee Bar Association and the Supreme Court to develop the first Tennessee Rules of Juvenile Procedure, and with the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to develop the first record keeping system for Tennessee juvenile courts; and,

WHEREAS, Linda has served on the Board of Directors for Tennessee Voices for Children; United Ways of Tennessee; Tennessee Alliance of Legal Services; Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare (President 1955-1996); Metro Action Commission; Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee; the inaugural Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Steering Committee and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the FrameWorks Institute; and,

WHEREAS, for decades, Linda has fearlessly and zealously advocated for policies to protect our State's children, without ever being swayed from her mission by partisan or political interests; and,

WHEREAS, Linda has served as an inspiration to countless others who will carry on her mission to improve conditions and opportunities for children; and,

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the Metropolitan Council recognize Linda O'Neal for her dedication and devotion to the children of this State.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. The Metropolitan Council hereby goes on record as recognizing Linda O’Neal and her retirement from the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth.

Section 2. The Metropolitan Council Office is directed to prepare a copy of this Resolution to be presented to Linda O’Neal.

Section 3. That this resolution shall take effect from and after its adoption, the welfare of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

RECOMMENDED BY:

INTRODUCED BY:

The Honorable Sheila Calloway, Judge
Davidson County Juvenile Court

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGALITY:

Assistant Metropolitan Attorney

Member(s) of Council